

Application No. 09/883,833
Response to Final Office Action

RECEIVED Customer No. 01933
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Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) An imaging apparatus for
photographing a photographic subject, comprising:

an image pickup device for receiving light rays transferred
from the subject, a photographic subject image being formed on
5 the image pickup device, and the image being converted to an
original image signal;

designating means for designating one of first and second
gradation modes;

converting means for converting the original image signal
10 from said image pickup device to an output image signal in
accordance with the designated mode, said output image signal
having a first gradation in accordance with a first gradation
curve when the first gradation mode is designated, and a second
gradation in accordance with a second gradation curve when the
15 second gradation mode is designated; and

adjusting means for adjusting a level of the original image
signal inputted to said converting means in accordance with the
designated mode, and maintaining an average level of the output
image signal outputted from said converting means at a
20 substantially constant level;

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wherein said first and second gradation property curves intersect each other at a certain target signal value, and the target signal value substantially corresponds to the average output level of the output image signal.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the intersection of said property curves is determined to correspond to 18 to 20% of a maximum signal level in a value on an input side of a gradation converting property.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein at least one of said first and second gradation property curves has a knee property in which a knee point is set in a region having a signal value larger than the signal value of the intersection of said property curves.

13. (Previously Presented) An imaging apparatus for photographing a photographic subject, comprising:

an image pickup device for receiving light rays transferred from the subject, a photographic subject image being formed on
5 the image pickup device, and the image being converted to an original image signal;

designating means for designating one of first, second and third gradation modes; and

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converting means for converting the original image signal
10 from said image pickup device to an output image signal in
accordance with the designated mode, said output image signal
having a first gradation in accordance with a first gradation
curve when the first gradation mode is designated, a second
gradation in accordance with a second gradation curve when the
15 second gradation mode is designated, and a third gradation in
accordance with a third gradation curve when the third gradation
mode is designated;

wherein said first, second and third gradation property
curves intersect one another at a substantially same intersection
20 point, which is determined to correspond to 18 to 20% of a
maximum signal level in a value on an input side of a gradation
converting property.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to
claim 13, wherein at least one of said first, second, and third
gradation property curves has a knee property in which a knee
point is set in a region having a signal value larger than
a signal value of the intersection point of said property curves.

Claims 16-19 (Canceled).

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20. (Previously Presented) An imaging method for
photographing a photographic subject, comprising:

receiving light rays from the photographic subject, forming
a photographic subject image, and converting the image to an
5 original image signal;

designating one of a first gradation mode and a second
gradation mode;

converting said original image signal to an output image
signal in accordance with the designation of one mode, said
10 output image signal having a first gradation in accordance with a
first gradation curve when the first gradation mode is
designated, and a second gradation in accordance with a second
gradation curve when the second gradation mode is designated; and

adjusting a level of the original image signal inputted to
15 said converting in accordance with the designation of one mode,
and maintaining an average level of the output image signal
outputted from said converting at a substantially constant level;

wherein said first and second gradation property curves
intersect each other at a certain target signal value, and the
20 target signal value substantially corresponds to the average
output level of the output image signal.

21. (Original) The imaging method according to claim 20,
wherein the intersection of said property curves is determined to

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correspond to 18 to 20% of a maximum signal level in a value on an input side of a gradation converting property.

22. (Original) The imaging method according to claim 20, wherein at least one of said first and second gradation property curves has a knee property in which a knee point is set in a region having a signal value larger than the signal value of the intersection of said property curves.

23. (Previously Presented) An imaging method for photographing a photographic subject, comprising:

receiving light rays from the photographic subject, forming a photographic subject image, and converting the image to an original image signal;

designating one of a first, second and third gradation modes; and

converting said original image signal to an output image signal in accordance with the designation of one mode, said output image signal having a first gradation in accordance with a first gradation curve when the first gradation mode is designated, a second gradation in accordance with a second gradation curve when the second gradation mode is designated, and a third gradation in accordance with a third gradation curve when the third gradation mode is designated;

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wherein said first, second and third gradation property
curves intersect one another at a substantially same intersection
point, which is determined to correspond to 18 to 20% of a
maximum signal level in a value on an input side of a gradation
20 converting property.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The imaging method according to
claim 23, wherein at least one of said first, second, and third
gradation property curves has a knee property in which a knee
point is set in a region having a signal value larger than a
5 signal value of the intersection point of said property curves.

Claims 26-30 (Canceled).